## ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

STATE OF ILLINOIS

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Jan 3

Illinois Bell Telephone Company	)	CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE
Application for Review of Alternative Regulation Plan	)	Docket No. 98-0252
Illinois Bell Telephone Company	)	
Petition to Rebalance Illinois Bell Telephone Company's Carrier Access and Network Access Line Rates	)	Docket No. 98-0335
Citizens Utility Board, People of the State of Illinois v. Illinois Bell Telephone Company	)	Docket No. 00-0764 (Consol.)

## REPLY TO RESPONSES TO JOINT MOTION TO REOPEN THE RECORD

Illinois Bell Telephone Company ("Ameritech Illinois" or the "Company"), by its attorneys, hereby files its Reply to the Responses filed by the Commission Staff ("Staff"); GlobalCom, Inc. and XO jointly ("GlobalCom/XO); Z-Tel Communications, Inc. ("Z-Tel"); and AT&T Communications of Illinois, Inc., WorldCom, Inc. and McLeodUSA, Inc. jointly ("CLECs/IXCs") to the Joint Motion to Reopen the Record filed by Ameritech Illinois, the Citizens Utility Board, the Illinois Attorney General, the People of Cook County and the City of Chicago.

Staff supports the Motion to Reopen the Record (Staff Response, pp. 3-5). Staff recommends, however, that all parties to both the SBC/Ameritech merger docket (Docket 98-0555) and the audit proceeding (Docket 01-0128) be provided notice of the reopening. Ameritech Illinois has not objection to Staff's proposal. Ameritech Illinois also supports

Staff's proposed procedural schedule. The Joint Proposal can and should be addressed expeditiously.

The CLECs/IXCs and GlobalCom/XO contend that the merger docket should be reopened to ensure that proper notice is given to the merger docket parties -- either in lieu of or in addition to reopening the record in this proceeding. It is not administratively necessary or appropriate to reopen the merger docket. Staff's proposal to serve the Commission's order reopening this record in this docket on the parties to the merger docket completely addresses the due process concerns raised by the carriers. Furthermore, the order in the merger docket is final and it has been affirmed on appeal. The CLECs/IXCs provide no support in Commission practice for reopening a final order. It is typical to modify a Commission order in a separate proceeding, as has been recommended here. For example, this Commission established a Primary Toll Carrier ("PTC") Plan in Docket 83-0142, which designated one incumbent local exchange carrier the PTC in each of the Market Service Areas in Illinois and assigned them specific responsibilities relative to interMSA toll rates in that MSA. Subsequently, in Ameritech Illinois' Customers First proceeding, the Commission concluded that the PTC Plan should be reevaluated. Order in Docket 94-0096/94-0117/94-0146, adopted April 7, 1995, pp. 127-28, 135. The PTC Plan was then terminated in yet a third proceeding. Order in Docket 95-0803, adopted December 20, 1995, p. 13. At no time was Docket 83-0142 reopened.

The issues raised in the Joint Motion are properly addressed in this proceeding. As the Joint Motion pointed out, the Commission deferred the merger costs and savings issues in the original merger order to this docket. Contrary to the CLECs/IXCs' contentions, it would be appropriate and administratively efficient to address the issues in this one docket.

Z-Tel and, to a lesser degree, GlobalCom/XO raise substantive objections to the Joint Proposal. These are issues which the parties can raise in the reopened proceeding, where they can be presented with evidentiary support. They are not legally relevant to a Motion to Reopen the Record and cannot be substantively relied on by the Commission at this time.

WHEREFORE, in view of the foregoing, the Joint Motion should be granted so that the merits of this proposal can be addressed on the record.

Respectfully submitted,

ILLINOIS BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

One of its Attorneys

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¹ Staff's Draft Order Reopening Proceeding suggests that the Commission include a statement to the effect that the Joint Proposal would, if adopted, result in a solution that is "substantially different" from the one the Commission contemplated in the merger docket. It is inappropriate and unnecessary for the Commission to reach such a conclusion in an order reopening the proceeding. Ameritech Illinois would also point out that the Draft Order contains a misstatement regarding the clarification of business services which should be corrected. In the amendments to the Public Utilities Act, all business services were declared competitive, not just those provided to businesses that subscribed to five lines or more. (Draft Order, p. 3, ¶ 2 and 3). Also, the Draft Order requires the Joint Movants to serve their Motion to Reopen on all of the parties to the merger docket and the Audit Review Docket. This requirement appears duplicative since the Commission's order reopening this proceeding will be served on these parties and the order summarizes the salient portions of the Joint Motion. (Draft Order, p. 2). The Joint Movants would, of course, provide copies of the Joint Motion to parties upon request.

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, the undersigned, certify that a copy of the foregoing document was served on the parties on the attached service list by electronic transmission and by U.S. Mail on January 25, 2002.

Louise A. Sunderland

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